Turk, Greek Cypriots Unite in Joy

NICOSIA (AP) — Clanging church bells were echoed by ringing telephones Thursday night as Cypriots celebrated the end of four years of fear and death.

Greek telephoned Turk and Turk rang Greek to exchange congratulations and greetings. Feuds and suspicions were forgotten as news of the London agreement reached the island.

Hundreds of Greek Cypriots crowded into the churchyard of a Kyrenia church singing national songs and shouting "long live Makarios." Priests inside began a service.

(See story on page 3.)

For hours before the news of the agreement became definite, Cypriots in dozens of villages had kept phoning the nearest towns asking "Can we now put out the flags and celebrate?"

Although some of the Greek Cypriots expressed doubt, most agreed that the revered Archbishop Makarios wouldn't sign anything "wrong."

British soldiers completed the picture of goodwill by helping to save the life of an aged Cypriot woman.

Eighty-year-old Paraskevau Shergas was badly burned when her hair and clothing caught fire from a stove. A police jeep sped to the scene, in the once-troublesome village of Ayias Amvrosios, and soldiers administered first aid. Then a helicopter whisked her off to a hospital in Nicosia.

Thursday night, for the first time in three years, Athens Radio went on the air with a direct broadcast from its Nicosia correspondent, describing Cypriots' reactions to the announcement of the London agreement.

In Athens, Greek newspapers rushed extras to the streets to spread news of the agreement.

Telephone — EV 3-4111
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Editorial EV 3-4509 or EV 3-8309
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Vancouver Island's Leading Newspaper Since 1858

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Island forecast, Intermittent rain, sunny periods

(Details on page 2)

TEAMSTER BECK GUILTY COULD GET 30 YEARS

$60,000 Fine Possible

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) —Dave Beck, millionaire ex-president of the giant Teamsters' Union, was found guilty by a federal court jury Thursday of evading $240,000 in income taxes.

Beck was remanded to the custody of a U.S. marshal and taken to jail soon after the jury announced its verdict. Beck's lawyers immediately announced they would appeal, but said their client probably would have to spend the night in jail while an appeal bond is being arranged.

SENTENCE FEB. 27

U.S. district court Judge George Boldt set Feb. 27 for sentencing.

Beck, 64, could be sentenced to 30 years in prison and fined $60,000.

He was convicted on all six counts of tax evasion in two government indictments. Each count carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment or a $10,000 fine or both.

The government contended Beck "swelled the coffers" of his Teamsters' Union while "about $1,000,000 stuck to his avaricious hands." The evasions, the government charged, covered 1950-53.

Too Much Gunplay, Perhaps?

Wild West shows, gangster movies and general gunplay may have been too much for Frank Wood's television set. The front protecting glass "shattered with a terrific noise," yesterday, Mrs. Wood, 220 Nicola, said. Actually the set was off at the time. Television technicians blamed the breakage on a glass flaw.

Another Plane Dives to Miss Onrushing Jet

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A Capital Airlines pilot reported that his Viscount airliner came within 200 feet of a head-on collision with an air force B-47 yesterday.

The airliner, carrying 34 passengers and a crew of three from Atlanta to Washington, dove under the oncoming jet bomber in a split-second escape from disaster.

The Capital pilot, Capt. Robert Spink of Arlington, Va., said the two aircraft passed within 200 feet.

"OUT OF NOWHERE"

"He appeared out of nowhere, exactly at our altitude, almost dead-ahead but approaching from a slight angle to the right," Spink said.

The incident took place at 19,000 feet, 30 miles northeast of Charlotte, N.C. The airliner landed safely about an hour later, where all passengers were examined by Capital's chief medical officer. Only one injury was reported, a slight back strain suffered by a passenger who later went on to New York.

NOT NEAR MISS

The air force said the B-47 was on a Strategic Air Command training mission out of Homestead Air Base. It identified the pilot as Maj. George R. Erks of Longhorn, Pa., an eight-year veteran with the Strategic Air Command.

"The pilot did not regard the incident as a near miss," an air force spokesman said. "He said he saw the airliner but at such a distance that he did not consider the incident worth reporting."

SECOND REPORT

It was the second reported "near miss" of the week. Monday night, an Eastern Airlines Electra had to dive to avoid hitting a civilian-piloted B-47 on a test flight near Atlanta.

Spink, a handsome, 37-year-old veteran of 13 years with Capital, said "It was the closest call I ever had."

Bulletins

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld.—Floods hit citizens digging out from a record blizzard and heavy rains turned passageways plowed through streets into rushing rivers.

* * *

MONTREAL—Mass meeting of 1,000 striking CBC employees and sympathizers angrily rejected latest proposals.

* * *

GENEVA — The U.S. proposed to Russia that helicopter-borne squads of nuclear detectives throughout the world check on suspected sneak atomic tests.

* * *

FT. BRAGG, N.C. — Gen. George C. Marshall rallied slightly but doctors warned against any "over optimism."

* * *

TORONTO — Two armed, masked men held up a Bank of Montreal branch, escaping with $12,000 after disarming a police constable.

* * *

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—An Atlas missile blew up early today after an apparently smooth start on what was to have been a 4,300-mile test.

* * *

TEHRAN—Iran may sever diplomatic relations with Russia as a result of Russian attacks on its ties with the West.

* * *

SHAWINIGAN FALLS, Que.—Fire last night raged through a shoe store, a jewelry store and a food store here.

* * *

WINDSOR, Ont. — The Windsor Gasoline Retailers' Association approved strike action against Canada's major oil companies.

* * *

ACAPULCO — President Eisenhower spent the first afternoon of his two-day visit to Mexico yachting on Acapulco Bay and discussing mutual problems with Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos.

Clearing Decks for Action

Busy checking plans for new B.C. government ferry is Victoria Machinery Depot marine architect J. B. Baess. Preliminary work is nearing completion and start on actual construction is expected early next week. VMD will build the 329-foot vessel, to carry 105 cars and 500 passengers on proposed Swartz Bay-mainland fast ferry service. —(Colonist photo.)

Working Conditions, Rights

Bonner's Office Studying Report on Civil Servants

The Dr. F. A. Carrothers report on working conditions and rights of B.C. civil servants is now in the hands of the government, Attorney-General Robert Bonner confirmed yesterday.

He said the report is being studied by his office, but did not indicate if it would be presented to the legislature at this session and would not comment on the report's stand on bargaining rights for civil servants.

NOT THIS SESSION

"I can't make a statement on the contents. If the recommendations are acceptable they would not require legislation," he said, indicating MLAs will not see the report this session.

Bargaining rights, as far as civil servants are concerned, is the main issue involved and it is unlikely MLAs will let the matter lie dormant.

DELIBERATELY DELAYED

B.C. Government Employees' Association delegate Frank Steggles told a Victoria Labor Council Wednesday the Carrothers report is already in government hands and indicated it is being deliberately delayed until after the session.

Opposition Leader Robert Strachan said yesterday he will demand discussion of the Carrothers report during the debate on estimates scheduled to start late next week.

Switch Urged In City Power

VERNON (CP) — A proposal that the B.C. Power Commission improve its financial position by purchasing or expropriating the B.C. Electric Company system in the Victoria district was made before the Shrum royal commission here.

City solicitor Neil Davidson, in Vernon's brief, said if the commission had the profitable high-density Victoria area, it could use the profits to lower rates in small cities and rural districts.

It would spread the burden of high rural electrification costs more equitably through the province.

Dr. Shrum referred to the brief as "constructive," but didn't indicate whether he favored the commission taking over the BCE system in Victoria.

Half Europe Fog-Gripped

LONDON (Reuters)—Thick fog gripped half of Western Europe on Thursday and crammed hospital wards in Britain with tens of thousands of sufferers from respiratory illnesses and flu.

Don't Miss

Be Adventurous Massey Tells Us
(Names in News, Page 2)

* * *

Winnipeg Freezes 93rd Straight Day
(Page 3)

* * *

Hypnotist Starting Safe Driving Plan
(Page 7)

* * *

Jury Acquits Youth In Seaman's Slaying
(Page 11)

* * *

Beatnik Bad Men Invade Easterns
(Crosby, Page 12)

* * *

Forewarned Granby Buys Those Balloons
(Page 13)

* * *

Train Your Mind To Keep Well
(Page 12)

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	Page
Comics	12
Financial News	6
Garden Notes	12
Radio Programs	21
Social	18, 19
Sport	8, 9, 10
Television	21
Theatres	27

Before Panel Four Days

Sommers Appeal Bid Ends; Decision Soon

The appeal of one-time provincial lands and forests minister Robert E. Sommers and a Vancouver man convicted with him of bribery and conspiracy after a notorious six-month trial, ended Thursday just four days after it began.

Indications were that the three-judge appeal panel headed by Mr. Justice H. I. Bird will hand down its decision in about three weeks.

And when it comes the decision will be concerned only with the convictions, which means a new appeal could be made later against the five-year sentences drawn by Sommers and Vancouver lumber executive H. Wilson Gray.

COUNSEL THANKED

Mr. Justice Bird thanked all counsel concerned with the case and said it was one which "calls for as early a decision as can conveniently be given." He made the remark in giving counsel 14 days to submit a written memorandum on an involved point of law which arose late in the fourth and final day of the appeal.

The 48-year-old Sommers made a brief appearance for one day in the small crowded appeal court during the hearing, sitting in the spectators' gallery. So did Gray. Both are at liberty on bail—Sommers on $34,000 and Gray on $30,000.

The appeals were taken on several grounds. Vancouver criminal lawyer Angelo Branca argued for Sommers mainly that a limitation on prosecution for bribery had expired before the final of four Crown indictments were laid.

Mr. Nicholson for Gray and his companies argued that conspiracy was only one offence, that it was unfair to try the accused on a multiplicity of counts together and that the trial judge had taken no action to dismiss the jury after appearance of a Vancouver newspaper report part way through the trial which the same judge later found contemptuous.

Mr. Nicholson also argued that a minister was not an official of government, as Sommers had been charged, and that the trial was a nullity because amendments to the indictment had not been properly made.

Mr. Dryer said that even if it was found the charges were not properly laid under the criminal code, he would submit as a secondary argument that the convicted men would still be liable under the common law—that great body of law which has grown up over the years built on judicial precedents and decisions.

JUDGE'S REMARK

Mr. Justice H. W. Harvey said the point was "assuming some importance in my mind."

Mr. Nicholson argued that common law had never been mentioned in the trial court.

It was then that Mr. Justice Bird instructed counsel to submit written memorandums on the point with 14 days.

Stand Firm Macmillan Tells West

LONDON (CP) — Prime Minister Macmillan said Thursday night it is "an absolute necessity" that the Western allies stand firmly together and not allow themselves to be divided or disunited.

He was replying to a House of Commons debate on foreign affairs, which had his forthcoming visit to Moscow as its background.

BREAK ICE

Macmillan, who leaves for Moscow Saturday, said he is not going to negotiate but to try to break the ice and get some "feeling of the general situation."

He said the next stages must be visits to Bonn, Paris and perhaps to Washington with a view to co-ordinating allied policy.

Macmillan said two weeks ago he might visit Washington following his journey to Russia. The illness of Secretary of State Dulles has brought increased speculation in Britain that he will make the trip.

Tourist Business Up $3,000,000

Year of the Camper—1958

Value of B.C.'s tourist business increased by $3,000,000 to $106,000,000 last year in spite of the fact that the normal travel pattern was disturbed by poor summer weather east of the Rockies and adverse publicity about ferry strikes, Recreation Minister Earle Westwood said last night.

He said the past tourist season showed a gain of 3.1 per cent in border crossings of tourists from the United States into the province of B.C.

Mail enquiries were up to 85,000, from 55,000 in 1957, he said.

But, he said, if it had not been for the ferry strike, British Columbia would have gained many more hundreds of thousands of dollars from the tourist industry.

Mr. Westwood said 1958 will be remembered as the year of the camper because "everywhere across our country people exploded into the open with tent and trailer to commune with nature."

Eighty per cent of the people who used B.C. parks were British Columbians, he said. He estimated that when final figures are compiled they will show more than 2,400,000 persons visited B.C. parks last year. In B.C. now 126 parks covered 8,417,985 acres.

"This year, 197 areas comprising several thousand acres in every section of the province have been set aside and these areas will be held until such time as our reconnaissance men can properly evaluate them from a recreational standpoint," he said.